

SECRET

17 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Chinese Language Problem in CIA

**REFERENCE : Memorandum for DD/I from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] subject as above, dated
13 March 1962**

1. You have asked for the comments of the Office of Training with respect to [REDACTED] proposals as presented in referenced memorandum.

2. [REDACTED] has made a quite thoughtful analysis of a very real problem which is confronting the Agency. He is correct when he concludes that the Agency should be concerned with providing itself with a new generation of people with real competence in the Chinese language.

3. We would like to comment specifically on several points in [REDACTED] discussion, as follows:

a. It is true that language is a direct part of, and a reflection of, a socio-cultural structure. [REDACTED] is quite right in stating that the greatest competence in the language of Communist China could result only from the greatest immersion in the cultural patterns of Red China. We agree that, other things being equal, Americans of Chinese origin could be presumed to have absorbed more of the Chinese culture (at least the pre-Communist culture), and hence would be logical sources for increasing the Agency's competence in that language. If we are unable to attract these people, however, we must use those who have acquired Chinese language competence by study, and must hopefully provide them somehow with cultural appreciations which would sensitize their grasp of the language.

b. We also agree that CIA needs Chinese language experts who have the required degree of knowledge in various scientific and technical specialties; similarly, we may also need scientists and technicians with an adequate knowledge of the Chinese language.

c. Finally, it is agreed, of course, that the Agency has a very long-range need for persons with Chinese language competence, and that we must take action now to meet our predicted needs.

4. The Office of Training is directly concerned with taking whatever action it can to meet the Agency's needs for training persons in the Chinese language. It is prepared to develop, as best it can, an "in-house" capability for teaching the language, and it will arrange for external training in this respect. Further, OTR will, to the best of its ability and in response to requirements, offer or arrange training in those contemporary cultural values of Communist China which would sharpen appreciation and understanding of its language.

5. With respect to the Agency's acquisition of persons whom various Agency components would sponsor for extensive Chinese language study, there may be considerable merit in [REDACTED] proposal to utilize the services of such an organization as the American Council on Learned Societies. You may also wish to consider using the roster of individuals now holding National Defense Education Act Fellowships in Chinese. These persons have been selected for aptitude and interest in many fields in addition to the language, and their files are available at the U.S. Office of Education.

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6. Whenever needed, representatives of OTR will advise Agency components with respect to the planning of internal and external Chinese language training, including the selection of persons for such training. [REDACTED] paper quite correctly indicates that early planning in this problem area is advisable.

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SIGNED

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

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